



Protect your Workforce from Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), Center for Food Protection (CFP) previously sent out [guidance](#) for food facilities to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect consumers. We know that grocery stores and markets are exceptionally busy during this challenging time and we want to ensure the safety of grocery stores' and markets' employees. All employers should implement strategies to protect their workforce from COVID-19:

- Please require your employees to stay home when they are sick, as outlined in our previous guidance. This not only protects consumers but also protects your employees.
- If an employee does come to work sick, send them home immediately.
- Hang posters in your facility to instruct employees to stay home and practice proper hand hygiene:
 - [Wash Your Hands!](#)
 - [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
 - [Stay Home When You're Sick](#)
- Ensure that employees are allowed to take breaks so that they can wash their hands regularly.
- Provide hand sanitizer dispensers at registers so cashiers can use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning:
 - Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs, following the directions on the cleaning product label.
 - Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, cashier lines) can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- Additional guidance on preparing the workforce for COVID-19 developed by the U.S Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) can be found here: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#).

For the latest information, please visit the [Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 web page](#); call RIDOH's COVID-19 Hotline at 401-222-8022 or 211 after hours; or email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov.